

9600653

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Hard Bargain Farm Survey Number: PG 83-2

Project: Woodrow Wilson Bridge Agency: FHWA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no X yes Name Orlando Ridout V Date 1984

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A XB XC D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The property is located within the listed Piscataway Park which is listed in the National Register under Criterion A for its role in maintaining the vista from Mt. Vernon. Based on the available information, this property appears to independently eligible under Criterion B for its association with Alice L. L. Ferguson, who with her husband, Henry G. Ferguson, excavated the Accokeek Creek Site in the 1930s and 1940s, advancing significantly our understanding of the Native-American culture of Maryland's Western Shore. In addition, it appears to be eligible under Criterion C. The heavy timber frame tobacco barn, originally constructed circa 1830-1850 and rebuilt in the post-Civil War period, exhibits some unusual construction features and is one of several significant buildings dating from the 19th through the mid-20th century which compose the farmstead.

Please note that the National Park Service is responsible for evaluating the eligibility of its properties in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and has not yet done so for this property. The above eligibility opinion reflects the views of this office only.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project File, Maryland Inventory
Form PG 83-2

Prepared by: Parsons Engineering Science (1996), Orlando Ridout V (1984)

Elizabeth Hannold May 5, 1996
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: ✓ yes no not applicable

Peter A. Kuntze 5/9/96
Reviewer, NR program Date

2/2/96

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT**I. Geographic Region:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
<input type="checkbox"/>	Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown Period (<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> historic)	

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Subsistence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Settlement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Political
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demographic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government/Law
<input type="checkbox"/>	Military
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social/Educational/Cultural
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation

V. Resource Type:Category: Buildings, StructuresHistoric Environment: RuralHistoric Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic - single dwelling, Agricultural-
storage, outbuilding, animal facility

Known Design Source: _____

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. Prince George
County - 83-2

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Hard Bargain Farm, Ferguson Farm

2. Location

street & number North side, Bryan Point Road not for publication

city, town Acco Keek vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Maryland county Prince George's County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u> </u> private residence
			<u> </u> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Alice Ferguson Foundation

street & number Hard Bargain Farm telephone no.:

city, town Acco Keek, state and zip code Maryland 20607

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Court- liber
house

street & number folio

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG - 83-2

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Note: The following description of the tobacco barn at Hard Bargain Farm was prepared by Orlando Ridout V in response to a request from Mr. Elmer S. Biles, President of the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Inc. The request was made as part of an effort to review and consider possible plans for the repair and use of this building as an educational exhibit. Correspondence and recommendations regarding the building are on file in the vertical file archives of the Maryland Historical Trust.

The tobacco barn is only one of several significant historic sites and features at Hard Bargain Farm. These have not been surveyed in detail at this time.

Description: Tobacco Barn

The tobacco barn at Hard Bargain Farm is located on a relatively flat stretch of cultivated land lying between two marshes that drain into the Potomac River just below Piscataway Creek. The barn is oriented on an east-west axis with the north facade facing the river.

The barn measures 32 feet long and 24 feet deep, and has been enlarged by the addition of an L-plan shed that extends 12 feet deep across the south facade and the east gable end of the building.

The main barn structure is of hewn and pit-sawn heavy timber construction. The basic frame in its present condition appears to date to circa 1860-90, but appears to be extensively rebuilt utilizing an earlier frame of circa 1830s-40s. The lean-to sheds are 20th century additions but may have replaced earlier sheds. The north wall of the barn was extensively rebuilt and repaired in the mid-1970s.

The exterior of the barn is covered with horizontal siding on the gable ends and vertical siding on the sheds and the rebuilt north facade. Early flush bevel-edge siding secured with machine-made nails survives on both gable ends, with 20th century plain horizontal board siding mixed in. The south wall, now protected by the south shed, was originally framed with

(Continued on White Sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No.

PG 83-2

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates**Builder/Architect**check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In general form and appearance, this is a typical example of a heavy timber frame tobacco barn of the post-Civil War period. On closer examination, a number of features become evident that are considerably less common. The overall size of 24 feet by 32 feet is consistent with the four-foot common denominator generally utilized for tobacco barns but the barn is unusually deep in relation to its length. The interior framing system is the most unusual feature. Originally constructed circa 1830-50, the barn was extensively rebuilt in the post-Civil War period. The gable ends and roof were disassembled and rebuilt using the same materials and the facade walls were altered from a post-and-stud system sheathed with horizontal siding to a post-and-rail system sheathed with vertical siding. The spacing of the original posts and studs does not conform to any previously recorded system, and offers few clues to the underlying rationale.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG 83-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Orlando Ridout V - Historic Sites Survey Coordinator

organization Maryland Historic Trust

Field Notebook MD-10;
date Recorded March 13, 1984

street & number Shaw House, 21 State Circle

telephone 301-269-2438

city or town Annapolis

state Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

7. Description: Tobacco Barn (Continued) #1

vertical studs to accommodate horizontal siding. This entire wall was evidently rebuilt and the vertical studs were replaced with horizontal rails. Vertical siding secured with wire nails remains on the east portion of this wall.

The interior is laid out to form eight four-foot rooms. The principal posts are on eight-foot centers and the tie beams and rafters are on four-foot centers. Unfinished round poles of about six-inch diameter are placed vertically on four-foot centers down the center of the barn, in line with the ridge-line. These are lapped and nailed to the tie beams at the top and rest on or slightly in the ground at the bottom.

Lighter horizontal poles averaging four inches in diameter remain in place, serving as tier poles. These rest on horizontal rails mortised into the principal posts of each facade wall, and are supported in the center of the barn by heavy wood pins driven into the heavy vertical six-inch poles that run down the center of the barn. Rough scantling, averaging one inch thick and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, has been nailed to the interior face of the gable end framing to serve as tier poles at each end of the barn. These boards show evidence of having previously served as roof nailers. This evidence includes the overall size of the material, the numerous nails and the nail holes that serve no purpose in the present position, and the evenly spaced notches in the thicker boards that conform with the four-foot rafter spacing. These notches allowed the thicker nailers to lie flush in an even plane to insure a secure roof.

The gable ends of the barn are framed with hewn and pit sawn studs regularly spaced at two-foot intervals. Large mortises and trunnel holes indicate that there were originally two intermediate posts dividing each gable wall into three eight-foot bays. These two intermediate posts may have served to frame doors in each gable end, but gable openings were more commonly only four feet wide. The surviving evidence suggests that the gable ends were also reworked in the circa 1860-90 renovation. The early studs were pulled out and turned around and the intermediate posts were replaced with smaller studs. A small door measuring approximately four feet wide and five feet high was framed in, and the barn was re-sided. Nails and nail holes on the interior face of the gable studs are the principal evidence for this change. The surviving nails appear to be a mix of both early and fully mature machine-made nails suggesting the original period of construction occurred circa 1830s-1840s.

Numerous other details serve as evidence of an extensive rebuilding in the post-Civil War period. All of the early posts and intermediate posts have a wide variety of mortises and half-lap joints that were clearly used and became obsolete when the barn was rebuilt. The top plate on the south wall has mortises for two intermediate posts and 14 studs that have been eliminated.

7. Description: Tobacco Barn (Continued) #2

It is curious to note that these studs do not conform to the standard two-foot centers found in the gable walls, and that while the two missing intermediate posts appear to have served to frame a door, the door was significantly out of center and did not align with the four-foot room system or an eight-foot framing system. A rational explanation of this dual framing plan is not readily apparent.

The roof has also been rebuilt. The present roof is constructed of common rafter pairs set on four-foot centers, supported by a flat false plate, joined at the ridge with a simple nailed mitre joint, and by two sets of collar beams. The mitred ridge connection is not common in traditional heavy timber framing, and three sets of empty half-lap joints for an earlier triple-tier collar system are further evidence that the roof has been rebuilt. The rafters in the west gable wall have even been turned upside down, leaving collar joints exposed at unusable angles and positions.

In the 20th century the early, narrow shingle nailers were pulled up and were reused in combination with stock board planks to sheath the roof to support roll tarpaper roofing.





PG 83-~~1~~2

Hard Bargain Farm



PG 83-42

Hard Bargain Farm



PG 83-42

Hard Bargain Farm



PG 83-12

Hard Bargain Farm



PG 83-12

Hard Bargain Farm



PG 83-12

Hard Bargain Farm



PG 83-~~1~~2

Hard Bargain Farm



PG 83-12

Hard Bargain Farm